Nixon tapes reek of anti-Jewish bias

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Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — President Richard Nixon wanted the IRS to audit Jewish contributors to the Democratic Party, whom he said were "stealing in every direction," the San Francisco Examiner reported today.

Nixon, in recently released White House tapes, urged Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman to "please get me the names of the Jews. You know, the big Jewish contributors to the Democrats. Could we please investigate some of the [expletive]?"

The conversations were included in more than 200 hours of tapes released after the Nixon family gave up a two-decade battle to keep them private.

At a meeting with domestic adviser John D. Ehrlichman in September 1971, Nixon said "John, we have the power. Are we using it now to investigate contributors to [leading Democrat presidential hopefuls Edmund Muskie and Hubert Humphrey] The Jews, you know, that are stealing in every direction?"

Later, Nixon asked Haldeman: "What about the rich Jews? The IRS is full of Jews, Bob."

When Haldeman proposed seeking "a zealot who dislikes those people" to audit Jewish contributors, Nixon agreed: "Go after 'em like a son of a bitch."

Robert Strauss, treasurer of the Democratic National Committee in 1971, called Nixon's comments "sickening."

There is no evidence that any audits were carried out, the Examiner said.